

Introduced by Senator Scott

January 4, 2006

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 64—Relative to Arts Education Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 64, as introduced, Scott. Arts Education Month.

This measure would proclaim March 2006 as Arts Education Month, would encourage all educational communities to celebrate the arts with meaningful activities and programs for pupils, teachers, and the public that demonstrate learning and understanding in the visual and performing arts, and would urge all residents to become interested in and give full support to quality school arts programs for children and youth.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Arts education, which includes dance, music,
2 theater, and the visual arts, is an essential and integral part of
3 basic education for all pupils in prekindergarten, kindergarten,
4 and grades 1 to 12, inclusive; and
5 WHEREAS, Education in the arts is crucial to achieving a
6 state educational policy that is devoted to the teaching of basic
7 academic skills and lifelong learning capacities, with the goal of
8 truly preparing all children for success after high school
9 regardless of gender, age, economic status, physical ability, or
10 learning ability; and
11 WHEREAS, A systematic, substantive, and sequential visual
12 and performing arts curriculum addresses and develops ways of
13 thinking, questioning, expression, and learning that complement

1 learning in other core subjects, yet an arts curriculum is unique in
2 what it has to offer; and

3 WHEREAS, Pupils benefit from arts education in the areas of
4 cultural understanding, readiness for learning and creative
5 thinking, cognitive outcomes, emotional intelligence and
6 expression, social interaction and collaboration, preparation for
7 the workforce, and lifelong learning; and

8 WHEREAS, Arts education in California is mandated for
9 pupils in grades 1 to 12, inclusive, pursuant to Sections 51210
10 and 51220 of the Education Code, which require that the adopted
11 course of study include instruction in visual and performing arts,
12 including dance, music, theater and visual arts, aimed at the
13 development of aesthetic appreciation and the skills of creative
14 expression; and

15 WHEREAS, The arts are recognized as part of a quality
16 education, and the University of California and the California
17 State University have instituted a policy that includes visual and
18 performing arts as a college preparatory subject for all high
19 school pupils wishing to enter the institutions of higher education
20 of the state; and

21 WHEREAS, Senate Bill 1390 of the 1999-2000 Regular
22 Session (Chapter 432 of the Statutes of 2000), authored by
23 Senator Kevin Murray and signed by Governor Gray Davis on
24 September 12, 2000, requires the adoption of visual and
25 performing arts content standards by the State Board of
26 Education, and states that it is important that instruction in the
27 visual and performing arts be made available to all pupils; and

28 WHEREAS, Many national and state professional arts
29 education associations hold celebrations in the month of March,
30 giving California schools a unique opportunity to focus on the
31 value of the arts for all pupils, to foster cross-cultural
32 understanding, to give recognition to the state's outstanding
33 young artists, and to enhance public support for this essential part
34 of the curriculum; now, therefore, be it

35 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
36 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature proclaims the month of
37 March 2006 as Arts Education Month, encourages all educational
38 communities to celebrate the arts with meaningful activities and
39 programs for pupils, teachers, and the public that demonstrate
40 learning and understanding in the visual and performing arts, and

- 1 urges all residents to become interested in and give full support
- 2 to quality school arts programs for children and youth; and be it
- 3 further
- 4 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
- 5 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.